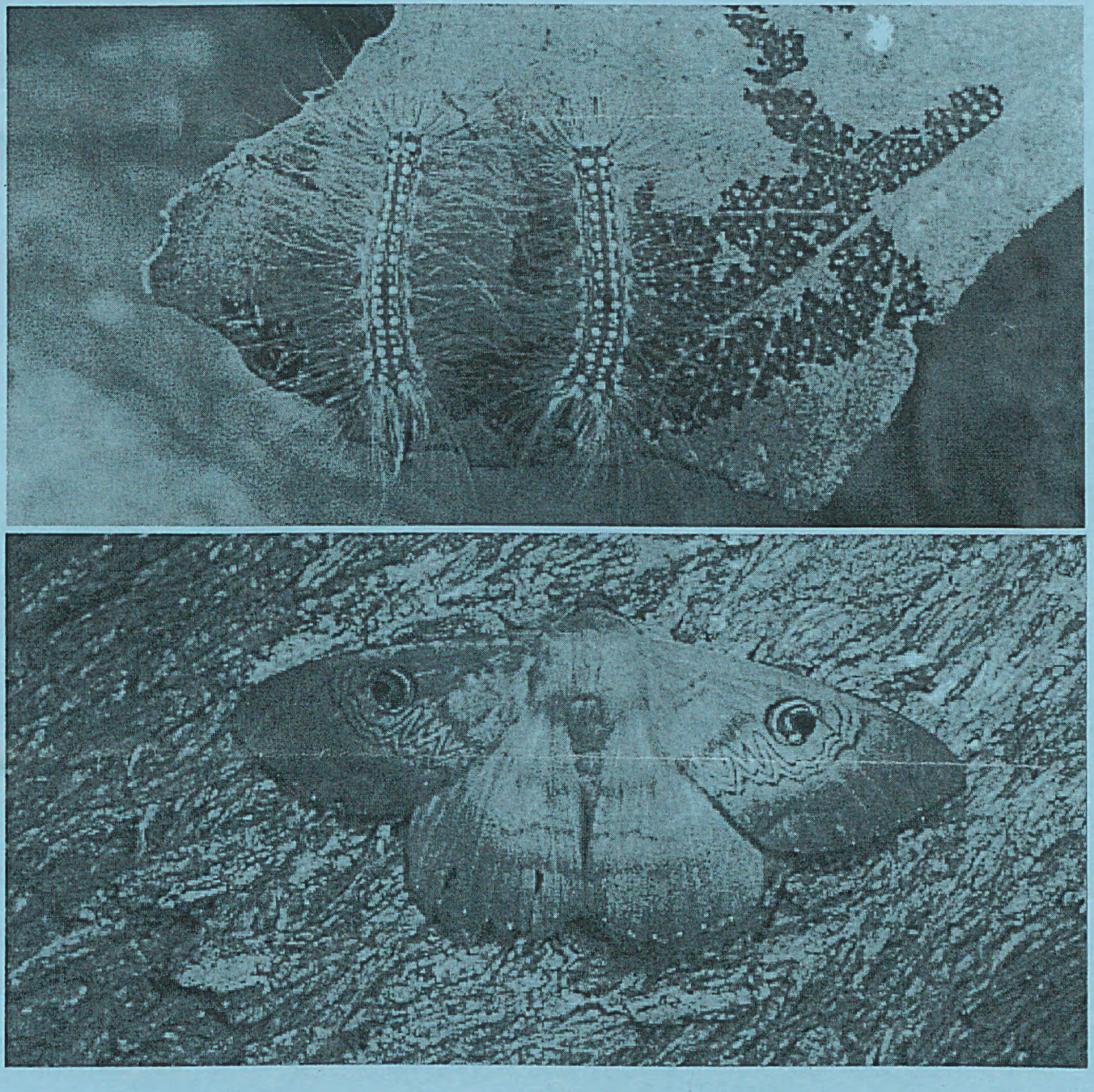
WHIRRAKEE

September 2002 Vol. 23 No. 8

Registered by Australia Post. Publication No. VBH4462



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Address for correspondence: PO Box 396, Bendigo 3552

Office Bearers for 2001 - 2002

President	Barbara Pelczynska	Melaleuca Ave, Longlea	5439 3075
Senior Vice President	Matthew Comer	46 Railway Place, Goornong	5432 2380
Junior Vice President	Darren Green	19 Alamein Court, Golden Square	
Secretary	Bill Holsworth	13 Nabilla Crs, Bendigo	5443 4063
Minute Secretary	Jane Cleary	24 Goynes Road, Epsom	5448 4396
Treasurer	Glenise Moors	Mandurang South Rd. Sedgwick	5439 6254
Membership Officer	Kate Lottkowitz	80 Piccaninny Rd, RSD Strathfieldsaye	5439 3157
Excursion organiser	John Green	4/34 Eaglehawk Rd, Bendigo	5443 6756
Syllabus organiser	Rod Orr	2 Cockerel Court, Bendigo	5443 5668
Librarian	Diana Collier	31 Milroy Street, Bendigo	5443 0137
Garden Secretary	Barbara Pelczynska	Melaleuca Ave, Longlea	5439 3075
Hall Management	Maurie Lewis		0407 427179
Whirrakee contact	Sabine Wilkens	82 Somerville Street, Bendigo	5443 2797
		e-mail: s.wilkens@bendigo.latrobe.edu.au	

Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $34. These rates include GST.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. The invited speaker at general meetings starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper.
If a workshop is held prior to the meeting, it will be advertised and it usually starts at 7.00pm.
The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearers listed above, together with the following members:
Kate Lottkowitz; Trevor Marshall; Rob Moors, Jan Orr, Stan Pelczynski; Bob Ruddick

Excursions Excursions are conducted irregularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. In addition to local excursions, campouts are held several times each year, usually coinciding with long weekends or holiday periods.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has one active sub-group:

Fauna Study Group: meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building.

Chairman: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (5439 5710)
Secretary: Bill Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Crs., Bendigo (5443 4063)
Equipment Officer: Maurie Lewis (0407 427179)

Front Cover: Photographer: Darren Green
No, these caterpillars do not hatch into this species of moth but they are from the same lepidopteran family (Noctuidae). The hairy caterpillars are *Uraba lugens*, gum leaf skeletonisers which have the strange habit of retaining their old head capsules on their 'forehead' in a neat stack (not apparent in the pictured specimens). The hairs may cause skin irritations in humans when handled, thus their informal name 'itchy caterpillars'. The adult moth is grey with black markings. (*Roeselia lugens* is another name that may appear in the older literature).
The beautiful moth in the lower picture is called Granny Moth or Old Lady Moth, *Dasypodia selenophora*, and its caterpillar is fleshy, brown, almost hairless and has two small red projections near the rear end (on the upper side). It feeds on Golden Wattle (*A. pycnantha*) and Silver Wattle (*A. dealbata*). The eye spot of the adult is of a bright blue-black colour. The common name is a mystery, does anyone know where the association with old ladies comes from?.....continued on page 4

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club

Vol. 23, No. 8, September 2002

Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*) which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

CONTENT

Item	Contributor	Page
'Spring in the Bendigo Bush' activities		3
BFNC Garden Working Bee	Barbara Pelczynska	3
Stella Bedggood Memorial Lecture	Ballarat FNC	3
Good News	Barbara Pelczynska	3
All Things Great and Small - fauna study group excursion	Darren Green/Maurie Lewis	4
Over the Rainbow	Tom Burton	5
August General Meeting - 'Spineless Wonders' Speaker Alan Yuen	Sabine Wilkens	6
From the Mailbag	Elaine Mathison	8
August Observation	Bird Observer Group	10

Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles.
Contributions will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although articles received more than one week after the monthly General Meeting will probably be too late for inclusion in the next issue of *Whirrakee*.
Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editors' Note
The Annual General Meeting is this month and another chapter in the life of the Bendigo Field Naturalists begins. Why not be part of it and nominate for membership on the committee?
Membership fees are also due this month. The subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. Whirrakee subscription only is $34. A yellow insert to accompany payment is included in this edition. Please pay promptly.
One good thing about Tom Burton's going overseas is that he has lots of interesting experiences. He knows that I am waiting for articles form him and he has less other pressures on him to write one. So, on page 5 is the first one....hope you've read 'The Wizard of Oz'....

Spring in the Bendigo Bush Activities

This year, the club's activities in the annual 'Spring in the Bendigo Bush' were scaled down somewhat, for example is no wildflower show in Bendigo (however, Inglewood is putting one on, see back page!). However, the club has pledged to organise several other activities – one walk was on the 1st of September to the Whipstick led by Graham Hill.

• On **Saturday 7th September**, there will be a Threatened Species walk (approx 2 hr) to see the Brush-tailed Phascogale, Sugar Gliders and other rare plant/animals in the Faugh-a-Ballagh Reserve.
Contact Bill Holsworth for details (5443 4063)

• Another walk will be on
Sunday, 15th of September to Salomon Gully and the Diamond Hill area.
This walk should suit people of all levels of ability and enthusiasm. Meet at Burnside Street 1.00pm.

• It is also planned to launch the new and improved edition of **'Wildflowers of Bendigo'** on the 18th September (however, this date is not set yet and may have to be postponed, contact the secretary for details).

• On **Wednesday, 25th September, 7.30pm,** an illustrated lecture on the **Wildflowers and Wildlife of the Bendigo Bush** will be held by acclaimed Bendigo photographers Rob and Cynthia Watkins at the BFNC Golden Square Club rooms.

• A **picnic in the Wellsford forest** is planned for **September 29, 10am - 3pm.**

• In addition, the 'Box Ironbark Living Records' CD will probably also be launched in October as the production team has been successful in obtaining all the funds required.

For confirmation of more information on any of these events, please ring the secretary Bill Holsworth or president Barbara Pelczynska (phone numbers on inside front cover)

'Bush Month' is September 14 to October 15
Events during this time are organised by Trust for Nature.
The program is at www.tfn.org.au.

Bendigo Field Naturalists Garden Working Bee
Sunday **15th September, 10am - 12 noon**

Please come to weed, prune and enjoy a nice morning tea.

Stella Bedggood Memorial Lecture – Invitation to all Members

The Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat extends a cordial invitation to members of our club to attend the annual Stella Bedggood Memorial Lecture.
The guest speaker will be **Mr Geoff Williams** from the Australian Platypus Conservancy. The subject of his talk is **"Platypus Research and Conservation"** and will cover topics such as feeding, habitat requirements, life cycle and population status.
The lecture commences at **8pm on Friday 6th September 2002**. It will be held in the Ballarat Horticultural Centre, corner Gillies and Gregory Street, Ballarat.
Admission is free and supper will be provided.

Good News

Author: Barbara Pelczynska

On the 21st August, I received a phone call from Jill Hamilton, the Duchess of Hamilton, to let us know that she approved and was pleased with BDEC's comments on the "Flora for Fauna" website (see August *Whirrakee*, vol 23, no 7, page 8).
Jill Hamilton has introduced the idea of 'Flora for Fauna' in England, and Australia borrowed it. However, in England, the 'Flora for Fauna' is attached to a scientific organisation, namely the Natural History Museum, in which Jill works. If one accesses its website and gives the postcode, one receives a list of local indigenous plants for the garden. She said that she wanted the Australian 'Flora for Fauna' to be attached to a scientific organisation and operate in a similar way, but this did not eventuate.

Anyone interested can access the English Flora for Fauna website on:
www.nhm.ac.uk/jubileetrees

.....continued from front cover...
Thanks to Darren Green who was so taken by Alan Yuen's talk on invertebrates that he supplied several invertebrate photos to illustrate this edition and entice people to go to the walk advertised below.

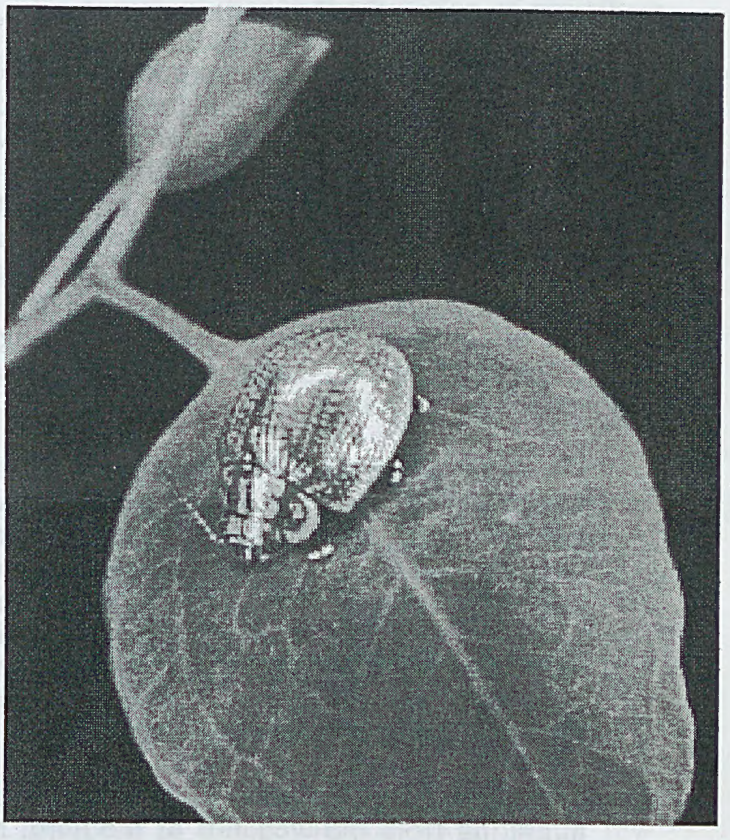
Fauna Study Group - Excursion
Sunday 29 September 2002
All things great and small.....

Meet 12.00pm Mt Alexander Koala Park

Inspired by August speaker, Alan Yuen, we thought it was about time we had a look under a few rocks and *bug* some of these "spineless wonders." So we have decided to get our *springtails* into action and *fly* on up to Mount Alexander. Apart from invertebrates, who knows what else we may see? Our last trip here produced some interesting finds from the bird, reptile and frog kingdoms. After this, for those who wish to stay longer, a walk through the Koala Park may very well be on the agenda. Come prepared to share some knowledge (i.e. invertebrates, birds, mammals, plants, etc.).

Don't forget to bring appropriate weather clothing, sturdy footwear, magnifying glass, field guides (i.e. invertebrates, spiders of Bendigo, fungi, wildflowers, etc.) and lunch. Bar-be-que facilities will be provided (BYO food, utensils, drink & chair), and the kettle will be on the boil for a cuppa. Public toilets are nearby. Children are welcome. Meet at 12.00pm for lunch, and a short walk afterwards. Remember the early bird catches the worm?

In summary
Location: Mt Alexander Koala Park.
Time: 12.00pm for lunch.
Bring: see above.



Eucalypt Leaf-Beetle, Paropsis atomaria
Family Chrysomelidae *(photographer; Darren Green)*

There is no need to book a place, just turn up prepared to participate on the day. If you insist on further details contact;
Darren Green ph 5442 6983
Maurie Lewis ph 0407 427 179

Ground-dwelling Beetle *(Family Scarabaeidae)*
(photographer: Darren Green)

Over the Rainbow
Author: Tom Burton

What do you think of when you hear the word 'Kansas'? I know that I would have thought of a song of the forties ('I was born in Kansas, I was bred in Kansas, and when I get married, I'll be wed in Kansas'), 'The Wizard of Oz', and ultra-conservative politics. Asked to describe Kansas before I first came here, I would have called upon my knowledge of 'The Wizard of Oz': flat, grey, lots of corn ('I'm as corny as Kansas in August ...') and wheat – oh – and sunflowers, the only native plant or animal.

First time I was here, I hardly ventured out of Lawrence, where the University of Kansas is located. Lawrence is in the north-east corner of the state, and the hilliest part of Kansas, so not representative of the state as a whole. So when I was asked to join a field trip to central Kansas in early August (mid-summer), I expected that I would encounter flat, dry, fields of corn or wheat stretching as far as the eye could see.

The aim of the trip was to survey the shorebirds migrating from the wetlands of the north and returning to South America. The first surprise I received relating to this trip was that central Kansas has wetlands of world significance, Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira. The trip was timed to coincide with a suitable weather forecast. What we wanted was a day of northerly wind, and preferably some rain. This has been a year of near-record drought and near-record heatwaves, and we needed rain to wet the wetlands and a northerly for the birds to take advantage of, and fly south. Such changes have been rare this northern summer, but our leader, Mark Robbins, curator of birds at the KU Natural History Museum, timed it absolutely right.

We set out on a Tuesday morning after a night of rain, with the cool breeze streaming down from Canada, bearing, we hoped, lots of birds. The country we drove through (about 300 km) was not at all what I had expected. After leaving Lawrence, we passed through the grass-covered Flint Hills, which have never known the plough, because the limestone bedrock with intervening layers of flint is covered with a skeletal soil. The grass was short even where it had not been grazed (more later), because of the drought year, but in a good year, in places where there is no grazing, the grasses and herbs can grow over your head. Not a flat piece of land to be seen.

After we passed Abilene (a famous cow town in the days of the cattle drives from Texas), we moved into the extensive riverine land centred upon the Arkansas River—not 'river flats', because the wind has piled the sand deposited by that river into low hills, swathed in green, with areas of forest as well as natural grassland. So much for flat Kansas.

Eventually, we reached the beautiful wetlands of Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira, and found that the timing had indeed been right. About 75 mm of rain had dumped on the wetlands overnight, and the northerlies had deposited over twenty species of migratory waders, some still in breeding plumage (including one superb Black-bellied Plover ('Grey Plover' in Australia, and a Dunlin), as well as many of the locally breeding birds: Great Blue Heron, Little Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Pied-billed Grebe (with young), Snowy Plover, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Least Tern, Ring-billed and Franklins Gulls. The birds I enjoyed seeing most were the Long-billed Dowitchers and the Willets. Dowitchers have disproportionately long, bulky bills, and were quite endearing, whereas Willets are large waders (bigger than a Greenshank), looking very plain until they flew, revealing a very distinctive wing pattern.

Another interesting thing was to see birds that turn up in the wetlands of Australia, apart from the Grey Plover and Dunlin, which I have already mentioned. Wilson's Phalarope (for the first time I saw their characteristic spinning on the water) was among the commonest birds we saw (many hundreds), the Pectoral Sandpiper and Baird's Sandpiper were also very common, as were the Great and Cattle Egrets.

So the wetlands part of the trip was very successful and exciting, but for me some of the greatest highlights happened when we were travelling. For example, twice we had to stop the car while a crèche of Wild Turkeys crossed. Turkeys had been hunted almost to extirpation, but they have made a dramatic comeback, and are now relatively common. Migrating flocks of Northern ('Baltimore') Orioles and Kingbirds filled the roadside vegetation, and a mixed flock of four species of Swallow – Bank, Cliff, Barn, and Tree covered the barbed wire fences. Add to that the Bull Snake, several Garter Snakes, Red-eared Slider (a small box-turtle) and the rare Musk Turtle. But the best wildlife experience came last.

Mark stopped the car and said, 'There it is!' 'It' was a Prairie Dog town. In a roadside paddock were dozens of 'dogs' (really rodents—Prairie Dogs are squirrels gone to a life of communal burrowing), and just as in the Disney short film called 'The Vanishing Prairie', there were burrowing Owls sitting at their burrows, and a coyote wandering about. What an amazing scene! It was hard to take in that this was real. Prairie Dogs and the ecosystem built upon these grass-eating animals are very much endangered. Of course, landowners don't like them much, and Great White Hunters like to use them for target practice, so very large 'towns', stretching over square kilometers, are now very hard to find. This one was maybe about two or three hectares. The demise of the Prairie Dog over much of its range has affected also the populations of ferrets and hawks that specialized upon the Dogs. So the loss of the Dogs is a wildlife disaster all over. I felt very lucky to see them.

Above I alluded to grazing. A genius in the Ag Science Department of a neighbouring university discovered that if you burn the prairie grasses every Spring, you can double the early summer stocking rate of cattle. The ecology of farming is quite different here, because for much of the year, the ground is under snow, so the emphasis lies upon quick growth and early maturing of crops and stock. Thus cattle are put onto the grass for early summer, then into the feedlots, and by mid-autumn most of them are slaughtered. The burning technique has raised profits for farmers immensely. The Prairie grassland has always been maintained by burning—unburnt prairie becomes Cottonwood forest. The Native Americans used burning to maintain grassland for the herds of Bison that thundered across the prairie, but the burning occurred only every four or five years, and it happened in Autumn. Many animals and plants were adapted to this pattern of burning, including the Prairie Chicken, and the grass could grow tall each year. The annual Spring burn has completely disrupted the old pattern, and the Prairie Chicken and other members of the Tall Prairie community are now endangered even more than before.

Last thing. We visited a house in Larned, a small town in central Kansas, because one man had reported four species of Hummingbird at his feeders. Only one species of Hummer (Ruby-throated) was thought to visit Kansas until a few years ago. However, over the past few years, the number of species has shot up. The normal track for most Hummer species is to migrate north along the Rockies in Spring, and return to South America via the Rockies again. The Ruby-throat has always returned via the centre of the continent (hence the tradition of providing 'nectar' for Hummers in these parts). But now there seems to be occurring an unexplained shift of behaviour. The Rufous is now seen fairly frequently on its way south, and the Calliope appears to be becoming more common. So I have to look carefully at the Hummers at the feeder I bought ($3)—I can't just assume that they will all be Ruby-throats. I can assume, however, that they will be magnificent.

August General Meeting
Speaker: Alan Yen: Spineless Wonders - an Introduction to the Importance of Invertebrates

Author Sabine Wilkens

Alan started his talk by introducing invertebrates the way much of the popular media does - with horror images of nasty, harmful creatures that are pictured in unsympathetic ways. Only few invertebrates are accepted as 'nice', butterflies are such a group.....
While flies, butterflies and beetles (one fifth of all the invertebrate species are beetles) are well known, some invertebrates are rarely seen, onychophorans (velvet worms) for example are a mysterious group. They have been called a 'missing link' in evolutionary terms, as it appears they combine some annelid worm features with those of insects. However, the latest on onychophorans is that they represent a separate evolutionary lineage and not a link at all. As more knowledge about them has accumulated is has also become clear that they are not so rare after all, they are just hard to find! I remember, I found one of these soft-bodied, strange animals during field work in my second year at University and was actually accused of having made it up! There are apparently around 100 species in Australia and they have very strange sexual habits....but Alan only hinted at these.

An amazingly large invertebrate from New Zealand, the Weta, was as big as a mouse (dispelling the idea that invertebrates are always small and inconspicuous). Well, the Weta may not be around much longer as the introduction of rats has seriously threatened this record breaking animal. Australia's largest cricket, in comparison, is a mere 8-10cm long. Other giant record breakers are the Giant Gippsland Earthworm.

Longevity is also something that is not well appreciated about invertebrates. Most look delicate and are believed to be short-lived. Alan told us that some invertebrates can live many years, the Giant Gippsland Earthworm even up to 20 years!

When talking about the sheer enormity of number of species of invertebrates, Alan mentioned a now famous 'experiment' by and American scientist called Terry Irwin who bagged a whole rainforest tree and fumigated the inside of this 'tent'. From this incredible collection, Irwin extrapolated the number of invertebrates to 30 million species!
In Australia 100 000 species of invertebrates have been described but 200 00 are undescribed! (this is compared to about 6000 vertebrate species that have been described in Australia).

Alan Yen was involved in 'repeating' Terry Irwin's experiment with two River Red Gums near the Murray River. The team used a fogging machine and sprayed the entire tree with insecticide (pyrethrin-based) with a giant sheet of plastic underneath to catch the falling organisms. This was done once in February and repeated in October.
A total of 8500 individuals were collected belonging to approximately 547 species. Of those species, only 120 were common in the February and October sampling time. The main groups were spiders, bugs, beetles, flies, ants and wasps.
This work has been written up in the *Victorian Naturalist* Vol 119 (4) August 2002.

The next part of the talk was devoted to the roles of invertebrates in the Australian environment. Dung beetles for example, if they were not there, what would happen?
More and more do we have to think of invertebrates performing an ecological service, something that is hard to appreciate for a lot of people who have never included this group of animals in the equation of necessary life ingredients.

Other than destroying fly-attracting dung, invertebrates are involved in many other beneficial eco-services, for example:
- pollination
- predation (e.g. of harmful invertebrates)
- parasitism (e.g. parasitism of economic pests)
- decomposition of carrion (e.g. fly maggots)
- scavenging (e.g. ants)
- recycling (e.g. Millipedes)
- aeration of soil and mixing of soil layers
- seed harvesting (thus aiding in dispersal)

We also got a got overview of herbivorous insects that attack leaves. There is a great variety of these and it is surprising that eucalypts, in particular, can actually live and withstand such onslaughts. There are:
- leaf chewers (e.g. chrysomelid beetles, see picture by Darren Green on page 4)
- leaf miners (e.g. *Perthida* in the introduced red ironbark, *E. sideroxylon*)
- leaf or sap suckers (psyllids or lerp insects, leaf hoppers)
- leaf skeletonisers (certain moth larvae, see front cover)
- gall producers (many wasps for example)

Many of these leaf destroyers have loose or close relationships with other invertebrates e.g. ants. A eucalypt tree often represents a complicated food web.

Alan also told us about an extensive survey done in box-ironbark forest to enumerate ground-dwelling invertebrates. These were caught in pitfall traps in 80 traps over one month.
Most of the captured animals were sorted to order only, spiders were sorted to family level and ants to species. All in all, 307 000 invertebrates were captured belonging to 44 orders (41 of which were terrestrial).
Six orders comprised 96% of the fauna which were dominated by Hymenoptera (ants and wasps), then beetles and then flies.
There were 13500 spiders in 34 families, of which over 94% were in 12 families.
There were about 250 species of ants in 48 genera. One ant species occurred at all 80 sampling sites and the majority (164 species) occurred in less than 10% of the sites. The interesting finding was that all sites were quite distinct with respect to the ant populations. Some ants are rare and were only found once or a few times. One species of the genus *Peronomyrmex* was only represented by two specimens! It is only 2mmin length and was thought to be a subtropical species. In response to these findings, further collecting trips were organised to uncover more specimens but none were located. The species has characteristic upwardly pointed sail-like protrusion between the abdomen and the thorax - unmistakable (a bit reminiscent of the Sydney Opera House). If any of you see such an ant wandering about in the bushland, I am sure Alan would be very interested in that information.
Overall the finding from this survey was that the diversity in invertebrates depended on a diversity of ground layer habitats.
We all still out jaws agape when Alan finished.... (and it wasn't from jawning!)

From the Mailbag
Author: Elaine Mathison

Each month the club receives a number of newsletters and magazines: some by subscription and some in exchange for Whirrakee. These are available from the club library.

* * * * * * *

PARK WATCH(VNPA)
June 2002

"A Salty Oasis: the Natimuk-Douglas Wetlands" outlines the importance of this chain of salt lakes in western Victoria. Banded Stilts in large numbers, and many other species of wading birds are regular users of these wetlands.

"Wyperfeld's Lakes: a last chance" points out the damage being done to the ephemeral lakes along the Wimmera River. The diversion of water for irrigation has reduced flooding of the lakes from about every twenty years to roughly every 100 years.

"The Snowy River Will Flow Again" reports on the progress of the restoration of the water flow for this degraded waterway. The rehabilitation will also include restocking with native fish species and replanting of the banks with native vegetation.

* * * * * * *

NATURE AUSTRALIA(Aust. Museum)
Winter 2002

"To Kill a Kookaburra" by Sarah Legge reports on the social and breeding systems of these popular birds. She discovered that parent birds fostered the killing by older nestlings of any third hatched juvenile, reducing the brood from three to two soon after hatching.

"Trials of the Queensland Lungfish" reveals that this species has been around in Australia since the time of the dinosaurs. A detailed study of lungfish ecology in the Burnett River was conducted over three years.

"Lost Giants" explores the late Ice Age extinction of megafauna. A popular theory implicates early man as the main destroyer, but the writers point out that other factors were involved, particularly in Australia where the human population was small.

"Where did Sea Snakes Come From?" by Scott Keogh points out that these reptiles display an amazing number of adaptations for marine life. True sea snakes are completely marine; they never, willingly, come on land.

"Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby": a fox eradication program in New South Wales has resulted in a large increase in numbers of this endangered species.

"Amazing Murnong" outlines the importance of the Yam Daisy in the diet of native peoples in many countries.

* * * * * * *

THE BIRD OBSERVER(BOCA)
June 2002

- Night-time at Terrick Terrick N. Park: spotlighting for quail
- Pilotbirds: a tale from the Australian bush
- A Great Sandy Odyssey: the trials of an atlassing expedition into the Great Sandy Desert
- Superb Fairy-wrens: a study of territories in bayside Melbourne
- Three Hummock Island: a weekend on a remote Bass Strait island

* * * * * * *

Also received recently:

*Castlemaine Naturalist(CFNC)
August 2002

*Ballarat Naturalist(BFNC)
August 2002

*Geelong Naturalist(GFNC)
August 2002

*Field Nats News(FNCV)
August 2002

* * * * * * *

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Speaker Syllabus for General Meetings 2002– Second Wednesday 8:00 pm

Please check each **WHIRRAKEE** for additional events or changes. If a workshop is planned, it will start at 7:00pm. The speaker will be introduced at 8:00 pm.

Date - 2001	Topic	Speaker
11 September	***Annual General Meeting***	See diary page for details
9 October	Grevillea Hunting Around Australia	Neil Marriott
13 November	What has been achieved in Waterways Management in the NC Region	Greg Peters
11 December	**Christmas Dinner**	

Bird Observers Group
August Observation

Anne Bridley sighted one Hooded Robin on 17/8/02 at Rifle Range Rd, Whipstick.

Diary

The General, Bird Observers Group and Fauna Study Group meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

General Meeting

Wednesday, September 11
A workshop will be conducted prior to the AGM.
'A closer look at wattles' will start at **7.00pm**
Some wattles will be provided. To increase variety and allow better comparisons between species, please B.Y.O wattle.
The AGM will start at **8.00pm**
Rod Orr will show slides about grasslands, and there will be an update by Glenise Moors and Jan Orr on the Flame Robin project.
All members are encouraged to come.

Wednesday , October 9 **7.30pm**
The topic of this month's talk is "Grevillea Hunting around Australia by Neil Marriot.

There will be a Workshop prior to the **November meeting**. It will deal with Plant Names - Latin Roots and the BFNC Indigenous Garden, conducted by BFNC botanists.

Fauna Study Group

Wednesday, September 25 **A.G.M.**
- topic of interest to be announced.

Bird Observers Group

This group meets (in the clubrooms) on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm. The next meeting is on:

Wednesday, September 4 **7.30pm**
Topic: Mystery birds – seldom seen, but constantly heard in Spring.

Excursion
Saturday, October 19
Field trip – Grassland Birds
Meet at 9am in Epsom at the corner of Eaglehawk Road and Midland Highway (Howard Street) for car pooling.
Contact: Anne Bridley 5449 3479.

For selected 'Spring in the Bendigo Bush' events, see page 3.

Bendigo Field Naturalists Garden
Working bee
Sunday **15th September, 10am - 12 noon**

Please come to weed, prune and enjoy a nice morning tea.

Tree Planting
– One Tree Hill Environment Group –

Saturday **21 September, 9am**
Meet at Wildflower Drive, corner Strathfieldsaye Road, at the picnic table area.
Contact: Anita Gackenheimer 54395257.

Visit the
Inaugural Wildflower Show
in Inglewood

Friday **13th September** and
Saturday **14th September**
10am till 4pm
at Inglewood Town Hall (gold coin donation)
Contact: Mary May 54383410

VFNCA Spring Camp
October 25-27, Ballarat
Descriptions of the many excellent excursions on offer as well as accommodation arrangements and a registration form were included in the July *Whirrakee*.
Please contact John Gegurke (ph 5339 4993) or Carol Hall (ph 53392255) if you would like further information.

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.
W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals.
It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Natural Resources and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433.